



# Signing Off!



## A Ministry Letter of Brent and Kerri Roberts



*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...a time to plant and a time to uproot...a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear Him."*  
~Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

### A Difficult Farewell, for Now!

If you had told us a year ago that we would now be writing our final update for our ministry in Zambia, we would have thought you were a bit off your rocker! To say that we loved our life, the people with whom we worked, and those we served in Zambia, would be an understatement. We have walked the road God laid before us knowing that it is "the Lord who determines our steps." Now He has turned our steps back to life and ministry in the States.

When we left in January 2008, we had three small children. We were a bit wide-eyed and really had no clue what we were getting ourselves into. We just knew that God had called us to Zambia to love Him and love



people. As we served there over the first three years with Action Zambia, we made many new friends and a Zambian family. God began to change our perspective.

It was while we were in Lusaka that we first met Dailes, with whom our whole family instantly fell in love! She and Charles were our first workers, but more importantly, our closest allies in learning about the Zambian



culture. They really became just another part of the family. When we made mistakes, which we did often, they were there to help and did so



graciously. They, along with a few of our other Zambian friends, really made the transition to life in a different culture much more manageable.



As you know, our transition didn't come without its bumps in the road. Within our first year there, we had our fourth child, Ellie, and 2 weeks after delivery Kerri suffered a life threatening stroke. But throughout this time and over our years in Zambia, God proved that He was and is faithful - this time healing Kerri completely, and other times through various provisions, protection, and grace for every situation.

In 2010, God saw fit to add to our family again through adoption as He brought us Thomas. Adoption has taught us so much more about God's adoption of us through faith in Jesus and we are so glad that He saw fit to add Thomas to our quiver!



In 2011, God called us and our dear friends, the Whitfields, in a new direction to serve in the Zambian bush of Chikankata. In these few years, God has continually been at work teaching us and teaching our friends more about Himself. It was here where we saw more opportunities for our kids to work right alongside us in ministry, which was such a blessing.



All of this to say, that over the last 7 years, God has done a great deal in and through us. We feel like we're returning to the States a completely different family. Zambia has changed each of us so much and taught us so much more about ourselves, about our faith, about the world, and about our Creator.

### It's a New Season

As you can see, God has been at work, bringing us through different seasons of life in order to accomplish His plans and purposes. And this next season is no different. Many of you have been asking what's next and we've been diligently praying and seeking God's guidance. We think we finally have at least part of the picture of what's next for the Roberts family.



**Online Donations:** Go to [www.CTEN.org/BrentRoberts](http://www.CTEN.org/BrentRoberts)

**Donations via USPS:** Send checks to: Commission to Every Nation, PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX 78029-1307, \* Be sure to include a note designating the donation to the ministry of Brent & Kerri Roberts



## Continued...



When we were in Zambia praying about direction, we really didn't know if I would remain in full-time vocational ministry or go back to work in a field connected with my training, education and experience in business. We also didn't know what God wanted for Kerri with respect to her passions and gifts in music and worship.

After much prayer, searching, and waiting, God has brought a couple of opportunities our way.



This month, I was offered and have accepted a position with BlueCross and BlueShield as a consultant in their Corporate Planning and Strategic Services department. This is the same group that I worked for before moving to Zambia. Although my office won't be in the Zambian bush, the mission field still exists! I also understand and enjoy the work there and really get along well with the people. So, I'm very excited about and thankful for this provision. I start working with them in April.



The other immediate opportunity has to do with Kerri and a new ministry! In early 2013, Kerri was approached by a friend here in the States about creating a blog ministry. So, along with 4 other women, she began writing about what God was doing in her life on [CalledforSuchaTime.com](http://CalledforSuchaTime.com). Through this, God has grown a passionate desire in these 5 friends to encourage and equip women to discover and live out their God-given callings in the power of the Gospel. In 2014, God began to move in their hearts to expand the ministry, and they are in the process of planning their first two live women's events!



As a branch of this ministry, Kerri and Carrie Balentine, her dear friend of nearly 20 years, have launched Called Worship. They are available to lead worship for church services, conferences, or other events. In March, they led for a conference in Baltimore, MD, and are excited about more opportunities God is opening up. In addition, they are writing songs and working toward recording. Will you please pray for them in this endeavor? We are excited to see where God will lead! <http://calledworship.com>



**Our children** are doing really well. Please continue to pray for them as they navigate this transition. While they have great friends here, they are still dealing with the loss of friends and their life in Zambia. Over the next few months, we will be making decisions on where to live and what schools they will attend in the fall. Pray for wisdom for us and for grace for our children.



## Will You Pray?

### Debrief Counseling

Moving back to the States after living 7 years in third-world Africa has its many challenges. Now that we're back, we have quite a few things that we need help processing. We have explored counseling options around the country. A local ministry, God Speed, has a debrief counseling program that they offer to missionaries returning from the field to live in the States. The cost for this program is \$500. We would like to take advantage of this opportunity for local, much less expensive counseling. Would you pray with us or even consider helping us with the funding for this counseling?

### Settling Expenses

We've already been blessed so much by your financial sacrifices. It's hard to ask again, but we could use your help in settling back to life in the States. When we moved to Zambia in 2008, we put a few things in storage at my parents' house and sold everything else we had. When we moved back here, we sold everything that we owned in Zambia, except what we could carry in our suitcases. God has generously provided in terms of vehicles and we do have some funds for set-up, but we could still use your help. If God lays it on your heart to help us in setting up our home, we would more than appreciate it. All gifts are 100% tax deductible. Giving information is located on the bottom of this letter (front & back).

### Monthly Donations: When They Will Stop

Because of my start date and the potential gap between our current support and the new salary with BCBS, we are asking those of you who are still supporting us on a monthly basis to consider continuing until April 26th. All recurring contributions setup through CTEN will be canceled on this date by CTEN financial staff. If you are giving a financial gift for debrief counseling, settling expenses or for any other reason, please do so on or before April 26th, as this will be the last day funds are receipted for us.

### Thank You

Please know how thankful we are for your partnership and sacrifice for the work of God in Zambia. We encourage you to stay involved in His work in Africa! It is very bittersweet to move on as our faith has been tremendously built by watching God work through you! You have been a tremendous blessing to us and your giving has impacted the lives of many in Zambia. With much love and deepest gratitude we press on!

Brent & Kerri Roberts

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